

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An intelligent trolley module for use in an assist system, comprising:
a plurality of wheels on the intelligent trolley module and configured to move the trolley module along a track;
an actuator on the intelligent trolley module for driving at least one of the wheels in a horizontal direction;
a computational node on the intelligent trolley module for controlling actuation of the motor driving the wheels of the trolley the actuator; and
a communication interface on the intelligent trolley module for providing input/output communication with between the intelligent trolley module and other intelligent modules.

2. (Currently Amended) The intelligent trolley of claim 1 ~~further~~ wherein the actuator comprises a gearing.

3. (Currently Amended) The intelligent trolley of claim 1 ~~further~~ wherein the actuator comprises a motor.

4. (Currently Amended) The intelligent trolley of claim 1 ~~further~~ wherein the computational node implements a virtual limit controlling motion of the trolley.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

6. (Original) The intelligent trolley of claim 1 further comprising a roller.

7. (Original) The intelligent trolley of claim 1 further comprising a manually operable roller release.

8. (Original) The intelligent trolley of claim 1 further comprising an automatic roller release.

9. (Original) The intelligent trolley of claim 1 further comprising a position indicator for indexing motion of the device.

10. (Currently Amended) The intelligent trolley of claim 9 ~~where~~ wherein the position indicator comprises a hall switch.

C 11. (Currently Amended) The intelligent trolley of claim 1 ~~furtherutilizing~~ wherein the computational node uses odometry for monitoring the motion of the trolley.

12. (Currently Amended) An intelligent lift module for use in an assist device, comprising:

an actuator on the intelligent lift module;

a support ~~moving~~ connected to the actuator and configured to move a payload in a substantially vertical direction;

a computational node on the intelligent lift module in communication with the actuator for controlling movement of the payload; and

a communication interface on the intelligent lift module for providing input/output communication ~~with~~ between the intelligent lift module and other modules.

13. (Currently Amended) The intelligent lift module of claim 12 ~~where~~ wherein the support comprises a cable.

14. (Currently Amended) The intelligent lift module of claim 12 ~~where~~ wherein the cable is raised and lowered by a reel.

15. (Currently Amended) The intelligent lift module of claim 14 ~~where~~ wherein the reel comprises a translating reel.

16. (Currently Amended) The intelligent lift module of claim 15 ~~where~~ wherein the reel comprises a slidable translating reel.

17. (Currently Amended) The intelligent lift module of claim 15 ~~where~~ wherein the reel further comprises a cam follower.

18. (Original) The intelligent lift module of claim 12 further comprising a replaceable guide unit containing a cam follower.

19. (Original) The intelligent lift module of claim 12 further comprising a position indicator.

20. (Original) The intelligent lift module of claim 18 further comprising a hall switch.

21. (Original) The intelligent lift module of claim 18 further comprising a motor encoder.

22. (Currently Amended) The intelligent lift module of claim 18 wherein the reel ~~is indexed comprising~~ comprises a plurality of hall switches ~~indexing~~ configured to index multiple rotations of the reel.

23. (Currently Amended) The intelligent lift module of claim 12 further comprising a virtual limit to the lift.

24. (Currently Amended) An input device for use in an assist system, comprising:
a handle for gripping; and
at least one proportional control;
wherein the input device is in communication with a multi-function hub, wherein the proportional control when ~~pressed~~ moved provides a proportional output signal to the ~~multi-functional~~ multi-function hub, and wherein the multi-function hub passes the output signal to the assist system.

25. (Original) The input device of claim 24 wherein the input device comprises a pendant.

26. (Currently Amended) The input device of claim 24, wherein the ~~proportional control provides for~~ output signal comprises one of an up ~~or down~~ signal to lift a payload up and a down signal to lower the payload down ~~or down respectively~~.

27. (Currently Amended) The input device of claim 24, wherein the proportional ~~button control~~ control comprises a shaft to rotate a magnet in the vicinity of a hall effect sensor to create the ~~proportional signal output~~ signal.

28. (Currently Amended) The input device of claim 24, further comprising a plurality of ~~conventional buttons that can~~ configured to be assigned specific functions.

29. (Original) The input device of claim 28 wherein the specific functions comprise stop and reset.
